1. (Original) An arrangement including a granulating head of an extruder for granulating plastics, said granulating head having an end face and comprising a plurality of passage openings for the passage of plastics melt and an apertured granulating plate arranged at said end face of the granulating head and having apertures following the passage openings, wherein the passage openings each end in a separate socket-shaped projection projecting beyond a front end face of the granulating head and tapering in its cross-section towards a free end, and the apertures tapering in their cross-sections to a front running face such that a cutting chamber following on the front running face does not have any contact with the socket-shaped projections.

2. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein a clear space is provided for a thermal insulation between the projection, or the projections, respectively, of the granulating head and the apertures of the apertured granulating plate, which clear space is filled with an insulating medium.

3. (Curently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the projections and the apertures are designed to be conical, the cone angle of the apertures being larger than the cone angle of the projections.

4. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 3, wherein the difference between the two cone angles is between 5° and 20°, preferably approximately 11°.

5. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the apertured granulating plate is fastened to the granulating head by means of at least one fastening plate which has an end-side flange engaging in the step of the apertured granulating plate, the transition from the running face of the granulating plate to the end side of the fastening plate being substantially plane.

6. (Original) A granulating head of an extruder for granulating plastics, said granulating head having a plurality of passage openings for the passage of plastics melt, wherein the passage openings each end in a socket-shaped projection projecting beyond a front end face of the granulating head and tapering in its cross-section towards a free end.

7. (Original) A granulating head according to claim 6, wherein the socket-shaped projections taper conically.

8. (Currently Amended) A granulating head according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the projections are formed in one piece with the granulating head.

9. (Currently Amended) A granulating head according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein separate inserts are provided as socket-shaped projections in the passage openings.

10. (Original) An apertured granulating plate having apertures, wherein the apertures provided in the circular-ring-shaped apertured granulating plate taper in their cross-sections towards a front running face.

11. (Original) An apertured granulating plate according to claim 10, wherein the cross-sections of the apertures at least partially taper continually.

12. (Original) An apertured granulating plate according to claim 11, wherein the apertures are conical.

13. (Currently Amended) An apertured granulating plate according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 10~~ to 12~~, wherein a peripheral step is provided so as to reduce the cross-section of the apertured granulating plate in its operating position towards the running face.

14. (Original) An apertured granulating plate according to claim 13, wherein the circular-ring-shaped apertured granulating plate has a step on its inner and outer circumference, which step reduces the cross-section of the apertured granulating plate in its operating position towards the running face.